



PR14:03
For Immediate Release:
1/23/2014

Contact: Jacob Roper
916-445-2636

Controller Orders Enforcement Actions Against Delinquent Local Governments

SACRAMENTO - State Controller John Chiang today announced that he will dispatch his audit and accounting staff to 20 special districts across the State to collect missing financial data that, by law, was required to be reported more than a year ago. Of those 20 public agencies, the Controller will audit at least three districts which have failed to comply with reporting requirements for two or more consecutive years.

"There can be no meaningful government accountability if the public is deprived of basic financial data detailing how taxpayer dollars are being managed," said Chiang. "Out of California's more than 5,200 local public agencies, these 20 have ignored their legal reporting duties, thereby compelling my office's intervention to extract the missing data and audit the worst offenders."

Under Government Code section 53891, local governments are required to annually file with the State Controller's Office a report of financial transactions, which include figures on revenues, expenditures, and long-term debt, within 90-110 days of the end of the fiscal year. The Controller publishes financial reporting instructions on his website annually. Following the 2010 scandal in the City of Bell, he amended the filing instructions to include detailed reports of employee wages and benefit costs. That data is now used to support the Controller's website dedicated to employee compensation – publicpay.ca.gov.

Last October, Chiang warned more than 120 local governments that their financial reports were overdue by more than a year. In his [letter](#), Chiang noted that repeated failures to file may indicate serious internal control problems that are often associated with unchecked spending or fiscal mismanagement, and could trigger a state audit. All nine cities and 97 of the 117 special districts contacted by the Controller's Office have since filed their reports. All of the State's 58 counties had previously filed their required reports.

The 20 non-reporting governments that will be visited by the Controller's staff are listed below. In italics are the three agencies whose internal controls will be audited after failing to comply with reporting requirements during the past two or more years.

District	County
Biggs-West Gridley Water District	Butte
Klamath Community Services District	Del Norte
Smith River Cemetery District	Del Norte
Reclamation District No. 2070	Lake

Sierra Foothills Public Utility District	Madera
Westport County Water District	Mendocino
South Dos Palos County Water District	Merced
Spreckels Memorial District	Monterey
Spreckels Community Services District	Monterey
Feather River Canyon Community Services District	Plumas
<i>Indian Valley Ambulance Service Authority</i>	Plumas
<i>Indian Valley Community Services District</i>	Plumas
San Martin County Water District	Santa Clara
Downieville Fire Protection District	Sierra
Happy Camp Fire Protection District	Siskiyou
Hornbrook Community Services District	Siskiyou
Burbank Paradise Fire Protection District	Stanislaus
Western Hills Water District	Stanislaus
Atwell Island Water District	Tulare
County Service Area No. 20	Tuolumne

Audit reports stemming from this enforcement effort along with missing financial data – once collected – will be posted on the Controller’s website.

Read a version of this press release in .

For more news, please follow the Controller on Twitter at [@CAController](#), and on Facebook at [California State Controller's Office](#).

###